

2 Timothy

Paul's Last Message

Why 2 Timothy?

- End of school
- Graduation
 - Valedictorian Speech
 - Salutatorian speech
 - Guest speaker
- A sendoff message
- It was Paul's Last Message - these were the last things on his mind

Where & When did Paul write this letter?

- It was the year 64 AD and Rome had just burned down - to which Nero blamed Christians for
- Due to this, Nero went on a rampage with the Roman army capturing and murdering a number of Christians
- Paul, was one of the people caught by the Romans and quickly imprisoned - taken to Mamertine Prison most historians believe
- So Paul, in prison, which will end up being where he is led to martyrdom, writes this last letter - he is later beheaded.
- His last will and testament one could say
- Thus, this is the last letter written by Paul....he could write something to almost anyone...and he chooses to write it to Timothy
- And we are told that Luke is there with him in - perhaps Paul is dictating this to him or Luke is simply going to act as courier

Who was Timothy?

- Timothy was from Lystra and would seem to have grown up “knowing the scriptures”
 - 2 Tim. 3:16 - “...that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures”
- Scripture tells us he was imprisoned with Paul a number of times (Philemon 1, Phil. 1:1, Col. 1:1)
- He ministered at a number of churches:
 - Berea - Acts 17:14
 - Thessalonica - 1 Thes. 3:1
 - Philippi - Phil 2:19
 - Corinth - 1 Cor. 4:17
- He is the person Paul left to shepherd and minister at Ephesus

Who was Timothy?

- Paul's successor
 - Paul is estimated to be in his 60's
 - Timothy was estimated to be in his 30's
- Was someone that Paul dearly loved
 - We see how much Paul missed him
 - He encouraged him to come and visit him in Rome
 - And he did write two epistles to him...
- When we look at certain verses in 2 Timothy I think it is understood that Timothy is still in Ephesus ministering there
- Paul even tells Timothy that he is sending Tychicus to Ephesus to fill in while Timothy is gone (2 Tim. 4:12)

How alone was Paul?

- **10** For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. **11** Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. **12** Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. **13** When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. **14** Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. **15** Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. **16** At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me.

• - 2 Timothy 4:10-16

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Mamertine Prison - Rome

- A number of historians believe Mamertine Prison is where Paul's final imprisonment was
- Setup to support 30 or so prisoners, often as a holding cell while they awaiting execution/punishment
- Prisoners would often starve
- Poor lighting, sewage
- Multiple prisoners together



— 2 Timothy Chapter 1

Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord

— 2 Timothy Chapter 1

³I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

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- We can see the love Paul had for Timothy
- His sincere faith and love
- His history - he grew up in a believing family - though it should be noted his family was teaching OT teachings

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- “Fan into the flame” the gift of God - NET translates this as “rekindle”
- In other words let’s not forget the true gift that God has given us - our salvation through Jesus and an eternal hope

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- So the first encouragement....the FIRST thing Paul encourages Timothy to do - is to keep his fire for the Lord burning
- Fan the flame...

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- And he also reminds Timothy to not be fearful and be reminded of what God has given us in His Spirit - (Second Encouragement)
- 1 - power
- 2 - love
- 3 - self-control

2 Timothy Chapter 1:7 (parallel translations)

7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (ESV)

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (NKJV)

7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline (NIV)

- Was Timothy being timid with his faith? Think of how many places he had ministered? Think of the times he had been in prison?
- It was fearful times...Christians were being arrested and persecuted
- Yet Paul, from a jail cell, reminds him to not be afraid of his faith, God gave us a spirit that is powerful, loving and self controlled

2 Timothy Chapter 1

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, **9** who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, **10** and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, **11** for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, **12** which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. **13** Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **14** By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

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- Let us not be ashamed of the Gospel - the third encouragement
- Ashamed - *epaischynomai* (ep-i-skhu-no-mi)
 - To feel shame or be ashamed
- It's a strong emphatic plea to not be ashamed and stand strong
- Paul uses this word 5 different times in his epistles - 3 of those times are in 2 Timothy

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- Reminded Timothy of who did the saving...and who is in control (let's not forget the context of what was going on in their time)
- And how we are called to a "holy" calling
- Holy - set apart
- Our citizenship is in heaven
- God is eternal

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- What has God entrusted to us? The Gospel and how we live it out
- Entrusted - *paratheke* (pa-ra-tha-ka)
 - To trust, be committed to
 - A deposit, a trust or thing consigned to one's faithful keeping

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- Guard it - translated as "keep" in the NKJV and "Protect" in the NET
- Guard - *phyllasso* (fu-la's-so)
 - To guard (literally or figuratively), preserve, obey or save

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- Also used in 1 Tim 6:20 as part of his closing reminder - *"Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge"*
- Guard the truth - the good deposit given to us. To speak against false teaching.
- One of the first things Paul brings to remind Timothy of as he begins his second epistle

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- Follow the pattern of the sound words
 - Pattern: *hypotyposis* - an example for imitation
- Adhere to Jesus - and the faith and love that are in Him
- Paul asks Timothy to follow his example as he follows Christ

2 Timothy Chapter 1

15 You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. **16** May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, **17** but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— **18** may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

- Some flee yet some stayed faithful
- Though written to Timothy it was a letter that would be shared with others in Ephesus
- Onesiphorus mentioned as a faithful example that refreshed Paul

Application

RECAP of Paul's First Encouragements:

- 1) Keep your fire kindled for the Lord
- 2) Do not forget what God has given you - a spirit of power, love and self control
- 3) Do not be ashamed the Gospel
- 4) Guard and protect the Gospel - be intentional and diligent
- 5) Follow Jesus, and His Word

- If you knew you were going to pass away, what would be the first thing (amongst the last things) you would tell someone?

- These are the first (among the last) pleas Paul makes to Timothy

- How is your current ministry?

- Do we treat our salvation and the Gospel as something intimately entrusted to us?

- How well do we guard it? Do we know how to guard it well?

Application

- Reminded me of the cycle that Rick shared with us last week
- Are we constantly stoking the fire we have burning within us? If so, how are we doing that?
- This is accomplished through first trusting in the Lord, and meditating on Him.
- From there we can delight in Him and have the ability to keep and obey Him - which furthers our trust
- Being in His Word and trusting in Him is the process for us to build up to further guard and defend our faith

